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ISSUED BY
The Commissioners for the Erection of the
NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS
1890.



Commissioners for the Erection of the Public Buildings

THE

NEW CITY HALL

PHILADELPHIA.

92-91

DIRECTORY



OF OFFICES OCCUPIED; OR ALLOTTED AND IN PRO-
CESS OF COMPLETION, WITH DIAGRAMS
OF VARIOUS FLOORS,

AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
APPERTAINING TO THE BUILDING.

OCTOBER 7, 1890.

PRINTED FOR THE COMMISSIONERS:
1890.

Commissioners for the Erection of the Public Buildings.

JANUARY 1, 1890.

WM. BRICE,
ISAAC S. CASSIN,
MAHLON H. DICKINSON,
EDWIN H. FITLER, *ex officio*,
Mayor.
THOMAS E. GASKILL,
JAMES R. GATES, *ex officio*,
President Select Council.

JOHN L. HILL,
WILLIAM M. SMITH, *ex officio*,
President Common Council.
HIRAM MILLER,
RICHARD PELTZ,
WILLIAM S. STOKLEY,
WILLIAM H. WRIGHT,

SAMUEL C. PERKINS, *President*.

OFFICERS.

President, SAMUEL C. PERKINS.

Secretary, WILLIAM B. LAND.

Treasurer, JOHN BARDSLEY.

Solicitor, SAMUEL PELTZ.

Architects, { The late JOHN MCARTHUR, JR.
JOHN ORD, Successor.

Superintendent of Construction, WM. C. MCPHERSON.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of the President, *ex-officio*, with four members of the Commission, who rotate monthly in the alphabetical order of their names.

Heating and Ventilating.

MAHLON H. DICKINSON, *Chm.*
ISAAC S. CASSIN,
HIRAM MILLER.

Lightning Protection.

PRESIDENT,
ARCHITECT,
SUPERINTENDENT.

Fitting Up and Furnishing Rooms.

JOHN L. HILL, *Chm.*
RICHARD PELTZ,
THOMAS E. GASKILL.

Water Supply.

ISAAC S. CASSIN, *Chm.*
WM. BRICE,
WM. S. STOKLEY.

Elevators.

RICHARD PELTZ, *Chm.*
ISAAC S. CASSIN,
THOMAS E. GASKILL.

Electric Lighting.

PRESIDENT,
ARCHITECT,
SUPERINTENDENT.

Tower.

SAMUEL C. PERKINS, *President, Chairman*.
ISAAC S. CASSIN, WILLIAM BRICE.

➤ NEW CITY HALL ➤

PHILADELPHIA.

DIMENSIONS OF BUILDING.

From North to South	486 ft. 6 in.
From East to West	470 ft.
Area	4½ acres.
Height of Main Tower	547 ft. 3½ in.
Width of Base	90 ft.
Centre of Clock Face	361 ft. above pavement
Diameter of Clock Face	20 ft.
Height of Upper Balcony	296 ft.
Number of Rooms in Building	750
Total Amount of Floor-room is	14½ acres.
Height of each Centre Pavilion	202 ft. 10½ in.
“ corner Towers	161 ft.
“ Basement Story	18 ft. 3½ in.
“ Principal Story	33 ft. 6 in.
“ Second Story	35 ft. 7 in.
“ Third Story, Centre Pavilions	26 ft. 6 in.
“ Third Story, Wings	24 ft. 3 in.
“ Third Story, Curtains	20 ft. 5 in.
“ Attie of Centre Pavilions	15 ft.
“ Attie of Corner Towers	13 ft. 6 in.
“ Crowning Statue	37 ft.
“ Figures on Centre Dormers	17 ft. 6 in.
“ Figures on corner Dormers	12 ft. 10 in.

COMPARATIVE HEIGHTS

— OF THE —

Principal Buildings in the World.

Washington Monument	550 ft.
City Hall, Philadelphia	547 ft. 3½ in.
Cologne Cathedral	510 “
Great Pyramid	480 “
Strasburg Cathedral	468 “
St. Peter's, Rome	448 “
St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna	441 “
Salisbury Cathedral	404 “
Torcacio of Cremona	396 “
Friburg Cathedral	385 “
Amiens Cathedral	383 “
Church of St. Peter, Hamburg	380 “
The Cathedral, Florence	376 “
Hotel de Ville, Brussels	374 “
Torre Asinelli, Bologna	370 “
St. Paul's, London	360 “
Church of St. Isaac, St. Petersburg	336 “
Cathedral, Frankfort on Main	326 “
Bell Tower, St. Mark's, Venice	323 “
Hotel des Invalides, Paris	310 “
U. S. Capitol, Washington	287 “
Masonic Temple, Philadelphia	230 “

ARRANGEMENT

—FOR—

NUMBERING THE ROOMS.

The buildings from the exterior on each of the four fronts, exclusive of the centre and corner pavilions, present a basement story or ground floor, with three principal stories, the uppermost one being a mansard story. These stories, above the basement, are in portions divided by mezzanine or half-stories, which are specially to be noticed from the court-yard. The centre and corner pavilions rise above the adjacent wings and curtains, with attic stories; the corner pavilions being occupied by octagonal staircases.

Including the sub-basement and the mezzanine stories, there are seven floors in the building, the rooms in each floor being on the same level. To each of these floors an even one hundred numbers have been assigned, commencing at the north entrance and following round the buildings to the east, south, and west fronts, and returning to the north entrance; twenty-five numbers being assigned for each quarter of the building. The rooms facing the streets will have the even numbers, and those overlooking the court-yard the odd numbers. The numbers in each one hundred will be assigned to the rooms of corresponding numbers immediately above and below upon the other floors. Thus, for example, rooms numbered 40, 140, 240, 340, 440, 540 and 640 will be immediately one over the other.

❖ DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ❖

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

	Nos.
Board of Health—Chief Clerk, ...	610
“ “ Health Officer, ...	615
“ “ House Drainage Inspectors, ...	613
“ “ Milk Inspectors, ...	513
“ “ Nuisance Inspectors, ...	617
“ “ Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, ...	515
Board of Revision of Taxes, ...	113
Clerk of Court of Quarter Sessions, ...	677
Commissioners—City	136
“ Fairmount Park, ...	127
“ New Public Buildings, ...	262
Controller, ...	146
Courts—Common Pleas, No. 1, Room A, ...	246
“ “ “ No. 1, Room B, ...	243
“ “ “ No. 2, Room C, ...	254
“ “ “ No. 2, Room D, ...	253
“ “ “ No. 3, Room E, ...	266
“ “ “ No. 3, Room F, ...	275
“ “ “ No. 4, Room G, ...	280
“ “ “ No. 4, Room H, ...	285
“ Criminal (Principal) Court Room, ...	676
“ Orphans' Court—Records, ...	536
“ Police Court Room, ...	625
“ Supreme Court Room, ...	454
“ “ “ Prothonotary, ...	456
Department of Public Safety—Boiler Inspectors, ...	317
“ “ “ Building Inspectors, ...	315
“ “ “ City Property Bureau, ...	130
“ “ “ Detective Bureau, ...	529
“ “ “ Director, ...	225
“ “ “ Electrical Bureau, ...	626
“ “ “ Superintendent of Police, ...	227
Department of Public Works—Director	212
“ “ “ Highway Bureau, ...	232
“ “ “ Survey Bureau, ...	418
District Attorney, ...	682
Grand Jury Room, ...	675
Mayor, ...	214
National Guard, Pa.—Headquarters.	186
Police Matron, ...	635
Register of Wills, ...	162
Tax Office, ...	102
Tax Office—Delinquent Taxes, ...	110
“ Water Rents, ...	114
Treasurer—City, ...	143

DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ON FIRST FLOOR.

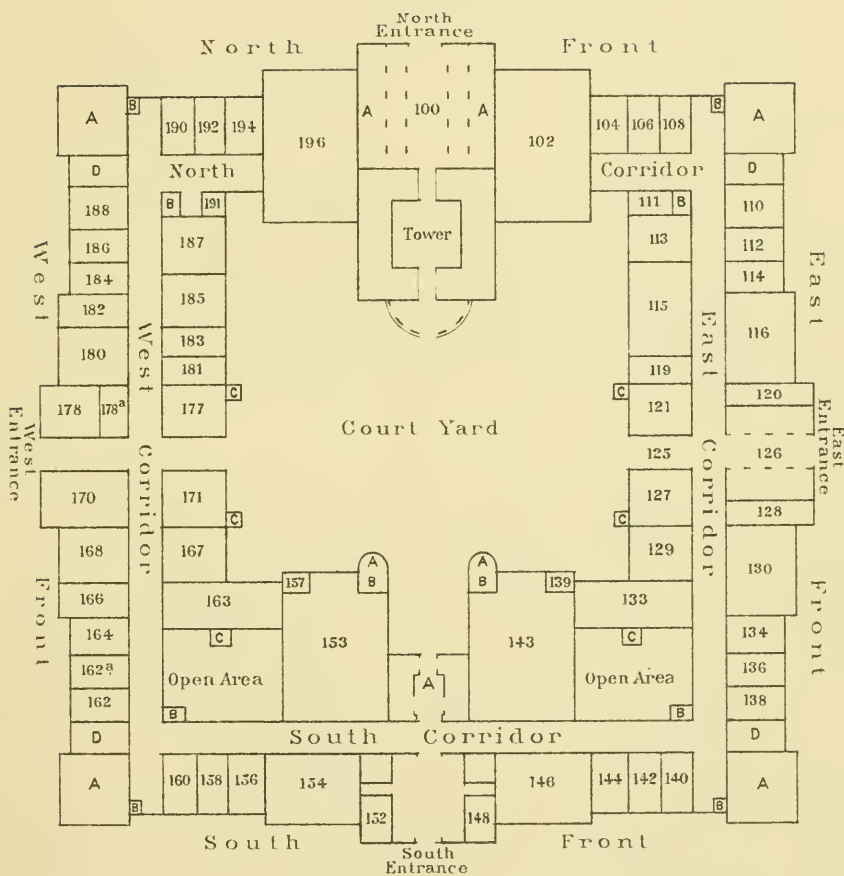
Nos.

102	Receiver of Taxes, General Office.
104	“ “ Chief Clerk.
106	“ “ Private Office.
108	Assessors of Real Estate.
110	Delinquent Taxes.
112	“ “
114	Water Rents.
116	“ “
128	Department Public Safety, Markets and City Property Store Room.
130	Department Public Safety, Markets and City Property General Office.
134	City Commissioners, Private Office.
136	“ “ General “
138	“ “ Clerks’ “
140	City Controller, Auditor’s “
142	“ “ “ “
144	“ “ “ “
146	“ “ General “
148	“ “ Private “
162	Register of Wills, Private “
162 A	“ “ State Appraiser.
164	“ “ Deputy’s Office.
166	“ “ Clerks’ “
168	“ “ Record Room.
170	“ “ Hearing “

Nos.

111	Board of Revision of Taxes, Private Room.
113	“ “ “ Board “
115	“ “ “ General Clerks’ Room.
119	“ “ “ Search “ “
121	Ladies’ Toilet Room.
127	Commissioners of Fairmount Park, Engineer and Superintendent.
129	Commissioners of Fairmount Park, Board Room.
133	City Treasurer’s Clerks’ Room.
143	“ “ General and Private Office.

Diagram of First Floor of the New City Hall Philadelphia.



NOTE.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| A — Staircases. | C — Ventilating Shafts. |
| B — Elevators. | D — Public Toilet rooms. |

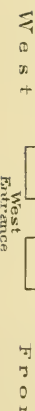
DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ON SECOND FLOOR.

Nos.	
210	Department Public Works, Director's Private Room.
212	“ “ “ Clerks' Room.
214	Mayor's Clerks' Room.
216	“ Reception “
218	“ Private “
230	Department Public Works, Licenses and Sewers.
232	“ “ “ Chief Com. Highways.
234	“ “ “ Street Cleaning.
236	“ “ “ Highway Com. Room.
240	
242	“ “ “ Boiler Inspector's Clerks.
244	Dept. Pub. Works, Boiler Inspector's Private Office.
246	Architect's Draughting Room, Temporary.
248	“ Private “ “
254	Court of Common Pleas, No. 2, Room C.
262	{ Temporary Offices of the Commissioners for the Erec-
264	
266	Court of Common Pleas, No. 3, Room E.
280	“ “ “ No. 4, Room G.

Nos.	
213	Department of Public Safety, Clerks.
215	“ “ “ “
217	“ “ “ “
219	“ “ “ Director's Private Room.
221	“ “ “ Director's Room.
225	“ “ “ Lieut's Hearing Room.
227	“ “ “ Supt. of Police Clerks.
229	“ “ “ “ Private.
243	Court of Common Pleas, No. 1, Room B.
253	“ “ “ No. 2, Room D.
275	“ “ “ No. 3, Room F.
285	“ “ “ No. 4, Room H.

NOTE.—Rooms Nos. 230 to 248 inclusive are now in use temporarily. Nos. 230 to 242 having been allotted to the permanent offices of the Prothonotary of the Courts of Common Pleas, and Room No. 246 to the Court of Common Pleas, No. 1, Room A.

Philadelphia.



NOTE.

A ____ *Staircases.*

C — Ventilating Shafts.

B — *Elevators.*D. *Public Toilet-rooms.*

DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ON THIRD FLOOR.

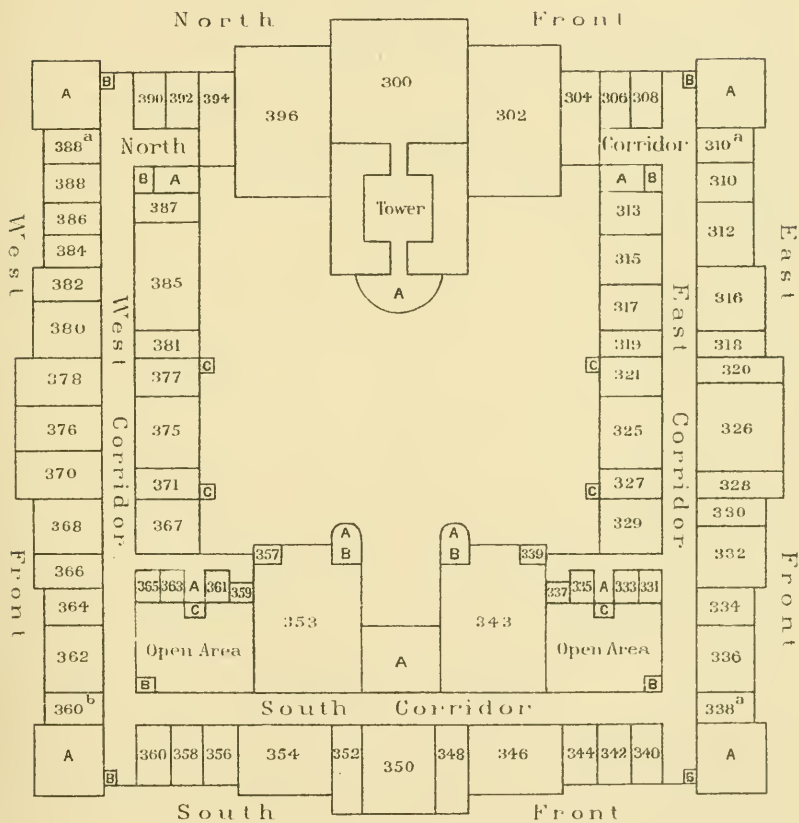
Nos.

310	Mayor's Office	Store Room.
312	Survey Bureau	“ “
316	“ “	“ “
318	“ “	“ “

Nos.

313	Building Inspectors.		
315	“	“	
317	Boiler	“	
319	“	“	
321	Department of Public Safety	Police Station Supplies.	
325	“	“	“ Large Store Room.
327	“	“	“ Store Room.

Diagram of Third Floor of the New City Hall
Philadelphia.



NOTE.

A — Staircases.

C Ventilating Shafts.

8 — *Elevators.*

D — *Public Toilet rooms.*

DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ON FOURTH FLOOR.

Nos.

406	Board of Highway Supervisors' Draughting Room.	
410	Registrar Survey Department City Plans	} Survey Bureau.
412	Registry Bureau	
416	“ “ Assistant Engineer	
418	“ “ Chief Engineer Sewers, Etc.	
420	Board of Surveys Committee Room	
450	Supreme Court Justices' Consultation Room.	
452	“ “ “ Toilet Room.	
454	“ “ Room.	
456	“ “ Prothonotary's Office.	
458	“ “ “ “	
460	“ “ “ “	
468	Law Library.	
476	“ “	
480	“ “	

Philadelphia.



NOTE.

A ____ *Staircases.*

B — *Elevators.*

C — Ventilating Shafts.

D ___ *Public Toilet-rooms.*

DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ON FIFTH FLOOR.

Nos.

530 Orphans' Court Record Rooms.

532 " " " "

534 " " " "

536 " " " "

556 Supreme Court " "

558 " " " "

560 " " " "

Nos.

513 Board of Health Milk Inspector.

515 " " Registration Bureau.

517 " " " "

529 Detective Bureau.

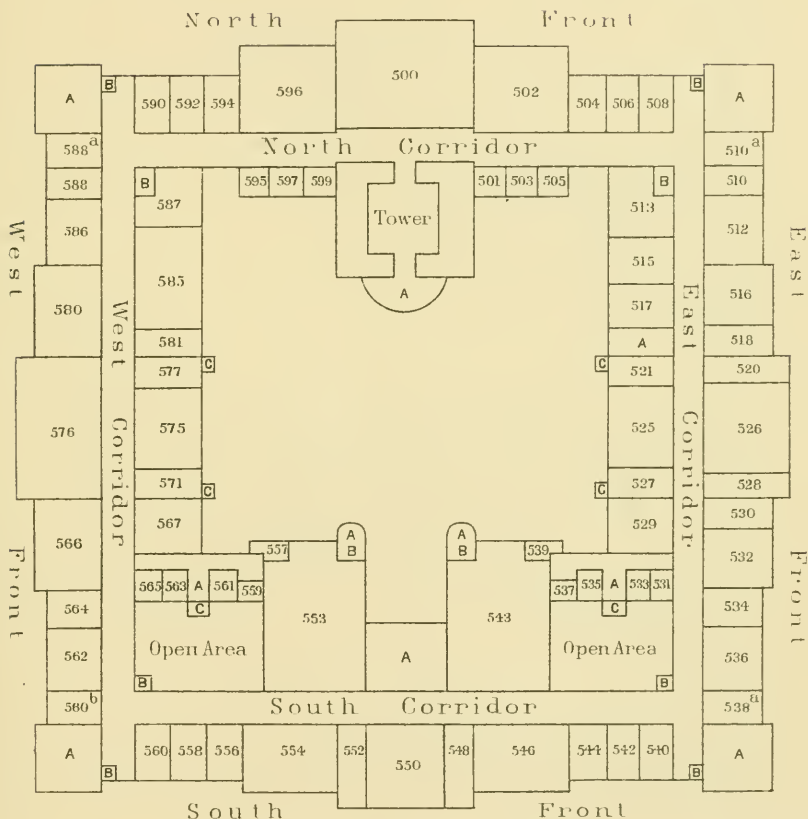
531 " "

533 " "

535 " "

537 " "

Diagram of Fifth Floor of the New City Hall Philadelphia.



NOTE.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| A --- Staircases. | C --- Ventilating Shafts. |
| B --- Elevators. | D --- Public Toilet rooms. |

DIRECTORY OF OFFICES ON SIXTH FLOOR.

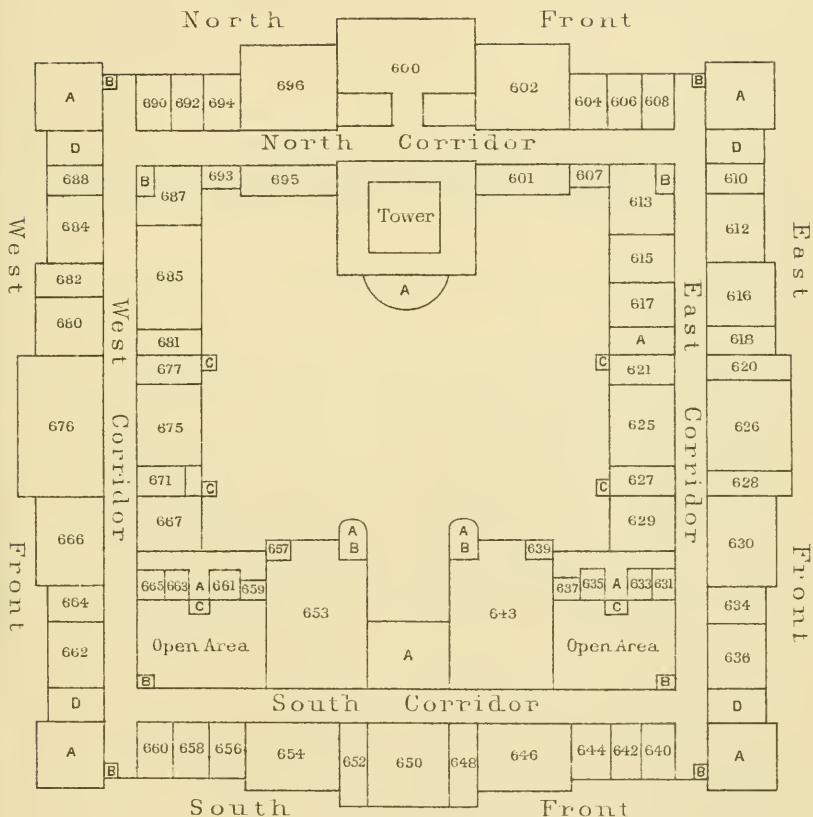
Nos.

610	Board of Health, Chief Clerk.
612	“ “ Clerks’ Room.
616	“ “ Board Room.
618	Electrical Bureau, Chief’s Priv. Room.
620	“ “ Clerks’ Room.
626	“ “ Operating Room.
628	“ “ Inspectors’ Room.
630	Dept. Pub. Safety, Reserves Roll Room.
634	“ “ “ Sitting “
636	“ “ “ Toilet “
640 to 688	Criminal Courts and Offices.
646	Criminal Court Room.
650	Counsel’s Conversation Room.
654	Criminal Court Room.
676	“ “ “
682	Offices of District Attorney.
684	“ “ “
688	“ “ “

Nos.

613	Board of Health, Inspectors of House Drainage.
615	Board of Health, Health Officer.
617	“ “ Inspec. of Nuisances.
621	Police Magistrates’ Private Room.
625	“ “ Court Room.
627	“ “ Witness’ Room.
629	Police Captains’ Room.
631	Lieut. Reserves’ “
633	Sergt. “
635	Matron’s “
637	“ “
639	Turnkey and Surgeon of Police.
643	Police Prisoners’ Cell Room.
653	Court Prisoners’ Detention Room.
657	Turnkey’s Room.
659	Officer’s Room.
661	“ “
663	Witness’ Room.
665	“ “
667	“ “
675	Grand Jury Room.
677	Offices of the Clerk of Quarter Sessions.
681	“ “ “ “
685	“ “ “ “
687	“ “ “ “

Diagram of Sixth Floor of the New City Hall Philadelphia.



NOTE.

- A — Staircases. C — Ventilating Shafts.
B — Elevators. D — Public Toilet-rooms.

AN ACT

FOR THE

Erection of the Public Buildings.

AN ACT to provide for the erection of all the Public Buildings required to accommodate the Courts, and for all Municipal purposes, in the City of Philadelphia, and to require the appropriation by said City, of Penn Squares, at Broad and Market Streets, to the Academy of Fine Arts, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Franklin Institute, and the Philadelphia Library, in the event of the said Squares not being selected by a vote of the people, as the site for the Public Buildings for said city.

Section 1. BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same: That THEODORE CUYLER, JOHN RICE, SAMUEL C. PERKINS, JOHN PRICE WETHERILL, LEWIS C. CASSIDY, HENRY M. PHILLIPS, WILLIAM L. STOKES, WILLIAM DEVINE, the MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, and the PRESIDENTS OF SELECT AND COMMON COUNCILS, for the time being, are constituted Commissioners for the erection of the Public Buildings required to accommodate the Courts, and

for all Municipal purposes, in the City of Philadelphia, who shall organize within thirty days, procure such plans for the said buildings adapted to either of said sites hereinafter named, as in their judgment may be needful; appoint of their own number, a President, and from other than their own number, a Secretary, Treasurer, Solicitor, a competent Architect and assistants, and other employees; fix the compensation of each person employed by them, and do all other acts necessary in their judgment to carry out the intent of this act in relation to said Public Buildings; fill any vacancies which may happen by death, resignation, or otherwise, and if in the judgment of said Commission, they shall deem it advisable to increase their number, they may, by a vote of a majority of their whole number, increase said Commission from time to time to any number not exceeding thirteen. The said Commissioners are hereby authorized and directed to locate said buildings on either Washington Square or Penn Square, as may be determined by a vote of the legally qualified voters of the City of Philadelphia, at the next general election in October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and the Sheriff shall issue his proclamation, and the City Commissioners and other proper officers of said City, shall provide all things that may be needful to enable the voters to decide by ballot, their choice of a site for said Public Buildings, and the Return Clerks shall certify to the Prothonotary, the result of said election in the usual form required for other elections. And as soon as said choice is determined by a vote of the people, as provided in this act, the said Commissioners shall, within thirty days thereafter, advertise for proposals, and make all needful contracts for the construction of said buildings, as soon thereafter as may be found practicable, which contracts shall be valid and binding in law upon the City, and upon the Contractors, when approved by a majority of the said Board of Commissioners; and the said Commissioners shall make requisition on the Councils of said City, prior to the first day of December

in each year, for the amount of money required by them for the purposes of the Commission for the succeeding year, and said Councils shall levy a special tax, sufficient to raise the amount so required. *Provided*, That said Councils may at any time make appropriations out of the annual tax in aid of the purposes of this act. *And provided further*, That the amount to be expended by said Commissioners shall be strictly limited to the sum required to satisfy their contracts for the erection of said buildings, and for the proper and complete furnishing thereof; and as soon as any part of said buildings may be completed and furnished ready for occupancy, they shall be occupied by the Courts, or such branch of the Municipal Government as they are intended for by said Commissioners; and upon the completion of a sufficient portion of said buildings to accommodate the Courts and Municipal Officers, the buildings now occupied by them respectively shall be vacated and removed, and upon the entire completion of the new buildings, all the present buildings on Independence Square, except Independence Hall, shall be removed, and the ground placed in good condition by said Commission as part of their duty under this act, the expense of which shall be paid out of their general fund provided by this act, and thereupon the said Independence Square shall be and remain a public walk and green forever.

And be it further provided, That in the event of Washington Square being selected by a majority of votes as the location for the said Public Buildings, then and in that event, the Councils of the City of Philadelphia are hereby authorized, empowered and required to set apart for and convey by proper deeds or grants of conveyance, or by proper assurances of the right to occupy said squares, which the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia shall duly sign and execute under the seal of said City, the four squares of ground, known as Penn Squares, located at the intersection of Broad and Market Streets, in the City of Philadelphia, as laid down on the present map of said City, one to each of the following insti-

tutions: the Academy of Fine Arts, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Franklin Institute, and the Philadelphia Library, for the purpose of allowing them to erect thereon, ornamental and suitable buildings for their respective institutions. The location of such buildings and the plans thereof to be approved by the Commissioners appointed under this act, and their successors in office, together with the time of erection, and all other matters appertaining thereto: *Provided, however,* That all expenses connected with said conveyances, plans and other information requisite for the said Commission to have, shall be paid by the institutions respectively. In the event of the ultimate selection of Penn Squares as the site for said Public Buildings, the said Commission shall have authority and they are hereby empowered to vacate so much of Market and of Broad Streets, as they may deem needful; *Provided, however,* That the streets passing around said buildings, shall not be of less width than one hundred feet. It shall be the duty of the Mayor, the City Controller, City Commissioners, and City Treasurer, and all other officers of the City, and also the duty of the Councils of the City of Philadelphia, to do and perform all such acts in aid and promotion of the intent and purpose of this Act of Assembly, as said Commission may from time to time require. All laws and parts of laws restricting the uses and purposes of said Squares, or any of them, that may be in conflict with the intention and purpose of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

B. B. STRANG,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHARLES H. STINSON,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the fifth day of August, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

JOHN W. GEARY.

SUMMARY

OF LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ACTION RELATING TO THE WORK, WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF EVENTS PERTAINING THERETO.

The earliest movements relating to the present undertaking consisted in the passage of an ordinance by the City Councils. approved December 31, 1868, providing for the erection of Municipal Buildings on Independence Square, and designating Commissioners to carry the same into effect.

The first meeting of the Commission was held in the Select Council Chamber, January 7, 1869.

Architectural designs were advertised for on the 5th of April, 1869, and on the 1st of September following, plans and drawings had been received from seventeen different architects.

At a meeting of the Commissioners, held September 27, 1869, the first premium was awarded to John McArthur, Jr., architect of this city, and on the 27th of the following December, Mr. McArthur was appointed Architect of the work, and proposals for labor and materials were ordered to be advertised for.

Contracts were awarded on the 16th of January, 1870, and arrangements made for commencing the work.

A strong opposition to Independence Square, as the site for the Municipal Buildings, had existed in the public mind from the earliest movements in that direction, and as the Commission proceeded with their preparations for carrying out the provisions of the ordinance under which they were

acting, the opposition became daily more intensified, until it culminated in the passage of a law by the Legislature of the State, approved August 5, 1870, providing for the erection of the Public Buildings, either on Washington Square or on Penn Square, as the legally qualified voters of the City of Philadelphia might determine, at the general election to be held in October, 1870. The election resulted, out of a total of 84,450 votes, in a majority of above 18,800 in favor of the site on Penn Square, which finally disposed of the question. The passage of this law rendered the municipal ordinance of no effect, and relieved the Commissioners acting under it, of further duties.

The first meeting of the Commissioners, under the new law, was held on the 27th of August, 1870, at the Mayor's Office. A temporary organization was effected by the election of the Mayor, Daniel M. Fox, as President, and Eugene G. Woodward, Secretary.

September 15, 1870, John McArthur, Jr., was elected Architect of the work.

October 4, 1870, a permanent organization was made, and John Rice was elected President, Charles R. Roberts, Secretary, and Charles H. T. Collis, Solicitor.

The removal of the iron railings which inclosed the four squares on Broad and Market Streets, was commenced on the 27th of January 1871, and this may properly be considered as the date of the actual beginning of the work; and August 16, 1871, the ground was formally broken by the President of the Commission.

October 12, 1871, Francis De Haes Janvier was elected Secretary, in place of Mr. Roberts, resigned, and John Sunderland was elected Superintendent.

April 7, 1872, the original plan for one building on the intersection of Broad and Market Streets, instead of four buildings, divided by these streets, was finally resolved upon.

The first stone was laid on the 12th of August, 1872, in the southwest angle of the foundations by the President.

On the 17th of April, 1872, Mr. Rice resigned as President of the Commissioners, and Samuel C. Perkins was elected in his place, and has held the office continuously ever since.

The contract for the granite basement was awarded November 19, 1872, for \$515,500; and work was commenced at the buildings, under the contract, March 24, 1873. The contract for the marble work of the superstructure was awarded on the 7th of October, 1873, for \$5,300,000; and the first block set at the southern entrance, July 3, 1874.

The corner-stone was laid in the Northeast angle of the Tower, July 4, 1874, with Masonic ceremonies, by the R. W. Grand Master of F. and A. M. of Pennsylvania; and the last block of marble was set in place May 7, 1887, on the Tower at the Southwest angle, 337 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the ground.

November 4, 1873, Wm. C. McPherson was elected Superintendent, and entered upon his duties November 10, 1873, and has been continued in office ever since.

December 2, 1884, Chas. H. T. Collis resigned his position as Solicitor to the Commissioners; and Samuel Peltz, was on the same date, elected to fill the vacancy.

January 5, 1885, Francis De Haes Janvier, Secretary, died; and on February 3, 1885, Wm. B. Land was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Janvier.

January 8, 1890, John McArthur, Jr., the Architect, died.

January 15, 1890, John Ord was elected Architect, and entered upon his duties February 1, 1890.

The appropriations, by Councils for the prosecution of the work have been to January 1, 1890, \$12,891,609.88.

Description of the Buildings.

THE EXTERIOR.

A tendency exists in the public mind to seek to classify every considerable architectural design, under the head of some "order" or "style;" but modern genius and taste deal so largely in original adaptations of classic, and other forms, that we often find no small difficulty in deciding under which, if any, of the heretofore established *orders* or *styles* many of the most important structures of the present day can properly be classed.

The architecture of the New Public Buildings is of this character. It is essentially modern in its leading features, and presents a rich example of what is known by the generic term of the "Renaissance," modified and adopted to the varied and extensive requirements of a great American municipality.

It is designed in the spirit of French art, while, at the same time, its adaptation of that florid and tasteful manner of building, is free from servile imitation, either in ornamentation or in the ordonnance of its details.

This immense architectural pile is located on the intersection of Broad and Market Streets, in the City of Philadelphia. It covers, exclusive of the court-yard, an area of nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and consists of one building, surrounding an interior court-yard. The north and south fronts measure 470 feet, and the east and west fronts $486\frac{1}{2}$ feet in their extreme length.

The four fronts are similar in design. In the centre of each, an entrance pavilion of 90 feet in width, rises to the height of 202 feet 10½ inches, having receding wings of 128 feet elevation. The fronts terminate at the four corners with towers or pavilions of 51 feet square, and 161 feet high.

The whole exterior is bold and effective in outline, and rich in detail, being elaborated with highly ornate columns, pilasters, pediments, cornices, enriched windows, and other appropriate adornments.

Archways of 18 feet in width by 36 feet in height, opening through each of the four central pavilions, constitute the four principal entrances, and at the same time afford passages for pedestrians up and down Broad and Market Streets, directly through the buildings.

The basement story is 18 feet 3½ inches in height, and stands entirely above the line of the pavement. Its exterior is of fine white granite, of massive proportions, forming a fitting base for the vast superstructure it supports.

The exterior of the building, above the basement, embraces a principal story of 33 feet 6 inches, a second story of 35 feet 7 inches, and a third story in the centre pavilions of 26 feet 6 inches, with an attic over the central pavilions of 15 feet, and over the corner pavilions of 13 feet 6 inches, all of white marble, from the Lee Quarries, in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, wrought, in all its adornments, in forms of exquisite beauty, expressing American ideas, and developing American genius. The small rooms opening upon the courtyard are each sub-divided in height into two stories.

In the centre of the group a court-yard of 200 feet square affords light and air to all the adjacent portions of the building. From the north side of this space rises a grand tower, which will gracefully adorn the Public Buildings, and at the same time will be a crowning feature of the city, from whatever point it may be approached, as Saint Peter's is of Rome, and Saint Paul's is of London. The foundations of this tower are laid on a bed of solid concrete, 100 feet square

8 feet 6 inches thick, at the depth of 23 feet 6 inches below the surface of the ground; and its walls, which at the base are 22 feet in thickness, are built of dressed dimension stones, weighing from 2 to 5 tons each.

This tower, which is so deeply and so strongly founded, is 90 feet square at the base, falling off at each story, until it becomes, at the spring of the dome, an octagon of 50 feet in diameter. A statue of the founder of Pennsylvania, 37 feet in height, will crown the structure, and complete the extraordinary altitude of 547 feet 3½ inches, making it the highest tower in the world; while at the same time it possesses the elements of firmness and stability, in a higher degree than any known structure of a like character.

THE INTERIOR.

The entire structure will contain over 750 rooms, giving convenient, and stately provision for the accommodation of "the Courts, and for all Municipal purposes in the City of Philadelphia," including a vast amount of surplus room for use in the classification and preservation of the archives of the city, for storage, and for increased accommodations, which will undoubtedly be required from time to time by the natural increase of the public business, and the accumulation of the public records.

Every room in the building will be well lighted, warmed, and ventilated, upon a thorough, effective, and approved system, and every part of the structure will be absolutely fireproof.

The several stories are approached by ten large *elevators*, located at the intersections of the leading corridors, so as to facilitate the intercourse of citizens with the public offices, courts, and other branches of the government. In addition to these means of approach there are large and convenient stairways in the four corner buildings, and a grand staircase in each of the centre pavilions on the north, south, and east fronts.

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